

REMARKS

By this Amendment, new claims 20-22 are added to more fully recite the disclosed invention and are patentable over the cited prior art for the reasons asserted herein. Additionally, a Replacement Abstract is provided. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-19 and 19-22 are pending.

Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bridges et al. (U.S. 6,148,197; hereafter "Bridges"). Applicant traverses the rejection because Bridges fails to disclose, teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims. For example, Bridges fails to disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention wherein operations and structures are provided for accessing a wireless local area network, and in particular on the basis of settings in the information set determined as being available by a specified comparison, as recited in independent claims 1, 8 and 14.

Bridges merely teaches a methodology for selecting a preferred wireless carrier when roaming outside of a home market by providing, in part, a mobile station with a list of preferred wireless carrier identities. Although the Office Action asserted that Bridges teaches all of the features recited in independent claims 1, 8 and 14, Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action's analysis is incorrect. Specifically, the Office Action has erroneously asserted that Bridges, at col. 3, lines 35-49, col. 5, lines 19-27, col. 5, lines 50 – col. 6, line 3 teaches the claimed storage of information sets describing settings used to access wireless local area networks and their associated resources. However, Bridges generally and at col. 3, lines 35-49 merely teaches that a user can select, when roaming, which band or system his PCS cellular mobile station will use. Moreover, col. 5, lines 19-27 teaches that a list is generated for a mobile station that indicates the preferred carriers in a certain market and for a certain class of service defined for the mobile station. Finally, the passage at col. 5, line 50 to col. 6, line 3 merely explains how such a list of preferred wireless carriers is generated.

Thus, the passages fail to teach or suggest storage of information sets describing settings used to access wireless local area networks and their associated resources because Bridges fails to teach or suggest any technology used in conjunction with wireless local area networks.

Moreover, Bridges similarly fails to teach or suggest each of the other features of the claimed invention involving wireless local area networks. Bridges's disclosure is limited to providing a list for the mobile station (col. 6, lines 36-46), from which the mobile station will select a preferred carrier from a set of carriers in a list, which is actually provided to the

mobile station by the generator from the network (col. 5 line 60-63). Although Bridges does explain in fairly broad terms about forming lists of preferred carried identities and how this can also be done in the mobile station. Bridges's selector operates to select the preferred wireless carrier identity not to determine (on the basis of any comparison) available information sets describing setting used to access wireless local area networks and their associated resources.

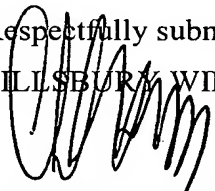
In general, Bridges fails to teach anything about wireless local area networks (WLANs). WLANs and cellular networks are both wireless but technically different networks. Cellular systems and WLANs have their own very different protocols for operating and are thus technically different. For instance, in WLAN there is no specific mobile switching center (MSC) and home location register (HLR) as depicted in Figure 4 of Bridge. The present invention provides a solution existing specifically in WLANs. This is apparent from the current application on page 9, line 10 (description of Figure 4), where it is explained how the WLAN networks need to be scanned to know about their availability. The information sets are collections of information for accessing a WLAN, for instance information in Figure 2, not just network identities.

Accordingly, Applicant submit that the claimed invention is patentable over the teachings of Bridges and requests the issuance of a Notice to that effect. However, if anything is necessary to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant requests that the Examiner telephone the undersigned Applicant representative.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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